

JLC Position Paper
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL EDUCATION WING

1. **Issue:** To provide additional funds to ensure that the Education Wing design process continues without delay and to cover the cost escalation for the project.
2. **Background:**
 - Original War Memorial construction did not foresee the need for an Education Center to provide space for patriotic programs, student seminars, exhibits, and teacher institute
 - Over the past several years, the ceremonies, events, and programs developed by the Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation (the Foundation) have resulted in the Memorial becoming a major education center
 - The growth of these programs and the dramatic increase (300%) in public visitation has resulted in participants and visitors being turned away
 - A plan has been developed to build an Education Center to accommodate all visitors and ensure that everyone who so desires can take advantage of the award-winning programs
3. **Discussion:**
 - Three years ago, the state appropriated \$50,000, matched by \$50,000 from the Foundation, to start master planning for the Education Center
 - Two years ago, the state appropriated \$500,000 to fund continued planning and initial design of this addition to the Memorial
 - Last year, the Commonwealth confirmed its commitment to the project by offering a no interest loan of \$3.5 million if matched by \$2 million raised by the Foundation for construction
 - The Foundation has started its fund-raising campaign and expects to reach the \$2 million goal by early 2008
 - The architectural firm of Glave and Holmes has been hired, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed and final design work is in progress
 - Completion of design is expected by mid-2008 and a general contractor will be hired at that time to construct the Education Center. Substantial completion of the Center is estimated to be the end of 2008
 - The construction industry remains volatile and cost escalation for the Education Center project increases by approximately \$1 million annually
 - Construction industry cost escalation has resulted in an estimated total cost increase of \$2 million (total cost--\$8.1 million)
4. **Recommendation:** The JLC supports the funding levels proposed in the Governor's Caboose Bill, but requests that the General Assembly modify the Governor's proposed budget such that \$500,000 of the \$5,720,000 in state support be released upon certification that the Foundation has secured \$1,000,000 in donations and/or pledges. The balance of the state funding (\$5,220,000) would be released after the Foundation has secured the remaining \$1,250,000 in private funds. The purpose of the \$500,000 is to keep Education Center planning on its time line and to prevent further cost escalation.

Adopted August 8, 2007
Updated December 19, 2007